

Radio Stamps

Neil Carleton

✉ P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada ☎ 613-256-2018

For broadcast on the *first Saturday of the month* on the
DX Partyline Program, Radio Station HCJB, Casilla 17-17-691, Quito, Ecuador.

Program 42 - September 3, 1994

Hello again, and welcome to *Radio Stamps*. This is program number 42, and I'm recording it today in the province of Nova Scotia, in eastern Canada, rather than in the *Radio Stamps* studio at Almonte. The program is coming to you from the community of Seafoam.

Yesterday, at Sackville in New Brunswick, near the border of Nova Scotia, we stopped at the shortwave transmitter site of Radio Canada International. It's a spectacular site, with an elaborate array of towers and antennas, right beside the Trans Canada Highway. Visitors are welcome and the staff provide public tours. The inauguration of the RCI facilities at Sackville was commemorated by Canada with a special postage stamp. It would certainly make a great addition to your collection of radio stations on stamps. I'll have more information for you on the November program about this unique stamp, and the RCI shortwave transmitter site at Sackville.

Today's program is about amateur radio on stamps. I'm using ham stamps as an example of the wonderful variety of philatelic items you can include in your stamp collection on the topic of radio. There are stamps, for example, that commemorate amateur radio clubs and amateur radio conferences. There are also stamps that depict hams in operation and ham expeditions.

As well as postage stamps, there is a wonderful variety of other philatelic items you can add to your collection. My collection of ham stamps includes postage stamps, a cinderella; it includes a meter stamp, postal cancellations and maximum cards. I'll give you a few examples. If you'd like to see some illustrations of the items on today's program, they'll be featured soon in my *Radio Stamps* column in the Journal of the North American Shortwave Association.

My collection of ham stamps includes an attractive set of three postage stamps from Norfolk Island, north-west of New Zealand. These stamps, with denominations of 43c, \$1 and \$1.20, feature a map of the island, the southern hemisphere and the south Pacific. The background of each stamp, issued to commemorate ham radio, is a listing of the callsigns for 5 hams on the island. A few years ago, an adhesive, perforated label, or what's called a cinderella, was issued by the private owners of the Isle of Pabay, south of the Isle of Skye, in Scotland. These labels, or cinderellas, were used as postage for local mail on the island. They have a denomination of 50p and the design includes the words "amateur radio"; it includes a beam antenna and a GM callsign for Scotland. Many will agree that amateur radio can be a great hobby. I have a Canadian meter stamp in red, or a meter machine impression, that says just that, "amateur radio, world's greatest hobby".

First day covers also are popular with collectors around the world because they combine a postage stamp and special first-day-of-issue cancellation. They usually include a cachet on the left side of the envelope that is designed to enhance the significance and appearance of the cover. An example

I have in my collection is from Indonesia. It was issued for the commemorative anniversary in 1991 of amateur radio operators in Indonesia. It features an amateur radio operator as well as the logo for the association. Postal cancellations are frequently used around the world to commemorate amateur radio anniversaries. An example I have in my collection is from France on an airmail cover. It was used to celebrate the 52nd national congress of the amateur radio association in France. It includes the name of the congress as well as the logo for the association. Some philatelists around the world combine postage stamps and post cards to create a specialized collection of maximum cards. This involves the affixing of a postage stamp to the picture side of a postcard, with the same or similar design, and having the stamp cancelled. The example I have in my collection, from Japan, features a 50 yen commemorative stamp, an anniversary cancellation, and a post card with the same design as the stamp. The stamp, the cancellation and card were issued for the 50th anniversary of amateur radio in Japan.

Collecting stamps on the topic of radio is certainly another great way of enjoying the radio hobby. You can add a wonderful variety to your collection with the addition of other philatelic items like cinderellas, meter stamps, postal cancellations, maximum cards and postal stationery, along with first day covers. Like listening to international radio, collecting stamps on the topic of radio is a lot of fun!

Alas, I run out of time again, and that's all for today's program. If you have news, or if you have comments and suggestions, they're always welcome. I hope you'll write to me soon. That's all for today's program, and here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.